



Central United Methodist Church
A Reconciling Congregation
Organized 1810—Incorporated 1822,
Sanctuary completed 1867

May 3, 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Asian American Pacific Islander Month

OUR WELCOMING STATEMENT

Central United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation. Regardless of your race, ethnicity, immigration status, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic situation, age, ability, belief, or background, whether you are single or partnered, you are God's beloved and you are welcome here.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We envision Central United Methodist Church as a vital, diverse, River of Life nurtured by the light of Christ, rooted deeply in and living the scriptures, a holy presence in the center of the City of Detroit, transforming individuals, institutions, and the world, advocating peace and justice in all we do.

* Indicates when to stand, if able in body or in spirit. **Please silence cell phones. Hymnal Guide:
W&S=Worship & Song, UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal, TFWS = The Faith We Sing

ACTS OF PRAISE

PRELUDE

Augustus Williamson & Zosette Guir

WELCOME

Deaconess Anne Hillman

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

Deaconess Anne Hillman

ONE: Spirit of Righteousness & Truth—

ALL: grant us the emotional bravery to engage in difficult conversations.

ONE: Grant us the courage —

ALL: to root ourselves deeply in the work of our convictions.

ONE: When we must engage in conflict for the sake of authentic relationships,

ALL: guide us in wisdom.

ONE: When we must rest for the sake of our wellbeing,

ALL: restore our bodies and spirits.

***OPENING HYMN**

You Give Your Church a Story

(ELLACOMBE 8.6.8.6 D - Tune of UMH #203)

**You give your church a story, O God of wondrous grace —
a story of your goodness and of your love's embrace:
a wandering Aramean once settled in the land.
Your people longed for freedom; you saved them by your hand.**

**You give to us a harvest and teach us to recall
that when your gifts seem endless and when our fields grow tall,
we're called to share your kindness — with immigrants as friends;
your story still reminds us how far your love extends.**

**You give your church a memory — the good news written down —
so when the world is scary, we'll know where help is found.
As Jesus quoted scripture when good and evil blurred,
we see the bigger picture when guided by your word.**

**Your word to us is precious — reminding where we've been,
proclaiming you are generous, and teaching, "Love will win!"
It points us to your glory and shows us what to do.
May we who hear your story be glad to follow you.**

Tune: Gesangbuch der Herzoglich Württembergischen Katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784 ("I Sing the Mighty Power of God";
"Hail to the Lord's Anointed") (MIDI); Text: Copyright © 2016 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

GREETINGS AND WELCOME OF FIRST TIME VISITORS



**Please help us know you were here in worship today by
scanning the QR code above with your phone. There is also
a place for notes and prayer requests for the pastor.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deaconess Anne Hillman

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Augustus Williamson & Zosette Guir

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Deaconess Anne Hillman

ACTS OF SHARING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*) Arthur Park
Jesus and his friends collected what the crowd offered and there was enough food for all. Let us live
in the legacy of the Living Christ, sharing what we have, that all may have enough.

OFFERTORY

Here I Am, Lord by Dan Schutte



For electronic giving, please use this QR Code

DOXOLOGY: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Holy One.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Arthur Park

Giving and Gracious, bless this moment of sharing. May it embody your love in this community and in communities beyond. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ACTS OF PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM

I Believe by Mark Miller

Megan Mueller, solo

*SCRIPTURE

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

Stuart Jacobson

In you, God, I took refuge; never let me be disgraced! In your justice, deliver me!

Turn you ear to me! Hurry! Rescue me! Be the rock I hid behind; be the walled fortress that saves me!

Because you are my rock, my fortress, and for the sake of your Name, lead me, guide me!

Pull me out of the trap they set for me, for you are my refuge!

Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, God, God of truth!

My times are in your hand; save me from the hands of my enemies and persecutors.

Smile on your faithful one;

ONE: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE:

Central Speaks! — *Talanoa*

Mollika Biernat, Stuart Jacobson, Zosette Guir, Arthur Park

“Talanoa is then to tell stories within a community that is open and receptive. Talanoa is a common word for sharing conversation and yet within groups it can be a respectful way by which voices are deeply heard. When there are crises and conflicts, when there are differences, the coming together of people for talanoa may provide a way forward.”

(Winston Halapua, *Waves of God’s Embrace: Perspectives from the Ocean*, p. 55).

***CLOSING HYMN**

Praise the Lord

The use of the masculine-gendered "Lord," while not following Central's inclusive language practices, is being used both out of respect for this traditional Japanese hymn and because a more inclusive wording fitting the music was difficult to identify.

Praise the Lord

17

SAKURA

NOBUAKI HANAOKA, 1980

Traditional melody: "Sakura"
Transcr. AAH, 1981

(♩ = c. 84)



1. Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, For the green-ness
2. Thanks to God, Thanks to God, For the gift of
3. Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God, For the grace of



of the trees, For the beau - ty of the flow'rs,
friends in Christ, For the church, our house of faith,
Christ, the Son, For the love of par - ent God,



For the blue - ness of the sky, For the great - ness
For the gift of won - drous love, For the gift of
For the com - fort and the strength Of the Spir - it,



of the sea; Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord,
end - less grace; Thanks to God, Thanks to God,
Ho - ly God; Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God,



Now and for - ev - er.
Now and for - ev - er.
Now and for - ev - er.

Words copyright © 1983 by Nobuaki Hanaoka.

Transcr. copyright © 1983 by Abingdon Press.

Performance suggestions: See #s 1, 4, and 5 on page xii.

1 Peter 1:3-4; John 3:16

Japanese

THE GOODNESS AND PROVIDENCE OF GOD

CCLI 2815228

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH (from *enfleshed: liturgy that matters*)

Go forth with the courage of the Mysterious Living God, who is never neutral on matters of liberation. Go forth in the legacy of the Way Makers who have gone before us— those who wept and wailed but chose to co-create life even amidst troubled times.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Zosette Guir

Central United Methodist Church
23 East Adams, Detroit, Michigan 48226, 313.965.5422

CUMCdetroit1810@centralumchurchdetroit.org / <http://www.centralumchurchdetroit.org>

Rev. Paul Perez, Lead Minister

Rev. Edwin Rowe, Pastor Emeritus

Deaconess Anne Hillman, Ph.D. Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Margaret Reese, Director of Music & Brandon Reeves, Collaborative Pianist

Debra Cox, Office Administrator & Angela Bakeley, Receptionist

Dave Wilson, Building Manager

This service is live-streamed under CCLI STREAM PLUS 21469425

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Central United Methodist Church acknowledges that the building in which we carry out our collective life together occupies and is built upon land that is part of what was first known as Waawiyaataanong (“At the curved shores.”), the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Three Fires Confederacy, but which is now referred to as Detroit. In 1807 the Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi, and Wyandot nations granted use of these sovereign lands to the US government through the Treaty of Detroit. Central United Methodist Church affirms the continued Indigenous sovereignty over these lands and honors all tribes with a connection to Detroit. We commit ourselves to working together with our native brothers and sisters to advance equity in all dimensions of life and to promote a better future for the earth and all its peoples. (Adopted by the Ministry Team -April 22, 2021)